

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Women in Trafficking

4647. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to towards the observations of the National Commission for Women that sixty per cent of women engaged in trafficking are below the age of sixteen; and

(b) what effective steps have been and are being taken to prevent such trafficking in girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As informed by the National Commission for Women they do not collect/maintain statistics regarding the number of women in trafficking. The National Commission for Women has in a 1997 publication entitled "The Velvet Blouse", quoted report of Delhi State according to which 60% of prostitutes at G.B. Road are child prostitutes.

(b) The Government is however very much concerned with the phenomenon of trafficking in women and children and has formulated a National Plan of Action of Combat Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children 1998 through strategies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation and social mobilization.

Apart from ensuring stricter enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, the Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of women and children especially the girl child through better education, health care, economic empowerment of women. Schemes for employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting-up of employment-cum-

income generating Units for Women (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Swaran Jayanti Rozgar Yojana (SJRY), etc. are implemented especially in high supply areas of victims of prostitution and for rehabilitation of rescued victims of prostitution. Efforts are also made through print media and electronic media to project a positive image of woman in society and to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards women and girl children. Short Stay Homes run through NGOs are supported financially by Government for providing counselling and temporary shelter to rescued and threatened victims.

Recommendations of NCW

4648. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the recommendations of the National Commission for Women pertaining to proposed amendments and modifications in various laws and statutes for protection of rights and interests of women and girls are only gathering dust;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations on which no action or little action has been taken; and

(c) the steps taken so far in respect of each, and the reasons for in action on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is reviewing various legislations relating to women in the light of the recommendations made by the National Commission for Women. These laws are related to different Ministries/Departments. The specific legal provisions will be finalized after a final view is taken on these laws in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.